

VZCZCXRO4286  
OO RUEHROV  
DE RUEHKH #2772/01 3351906  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 011906Z DEC 06  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5445  
INFO RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CJTF HOA PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KHARTOUM 002772

SIPDIS

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [CASC](#) [EAID](#) [SOCI](#) [UN](#) [SU](#)  
SUBJECT: Malakal Update: Ceasefire Holding

REF: Khartoum 02765

1. (U) Summary: A ceasefire in Malakal between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) appears to have held through December 1, although sporadic gunfire and looting continues. UN agencies and NGOs are providing initial humanitarian assistance, including assisting the wounded and burying the dead. Initial estimates by aid workers in Malakal project roughly 250 civilian and military deaths from violence that erupted November 27 (reftel). The UN estimates that 300-400 civilians were wounded. End summary.

-----  
Ceasefire Holding  
-----

2. (U) The ceasefire agreement, brokered on November 29 by UNMIS personnel under the auspices of the Combined Joint Military Commission (CJMC), a body set up under the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), appears to have ended fighting. The fighting in Malakal is the most serious between SAF and SPLA units since the CPA was signed. Under the Malakal ceasefire, the parties agreed to cease hostilities, permit the local population to return to their homes, and turn over the bodies of dead combatants to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for burial. Subsequent to the agreement, SPLA forces reportedly withdrew to positions in the southern part of Malakal and the SAF reoccupied various locations, including its headquarters, which had been briefly captured by the SPLA.

-----  
Looting, Threats Continue on November 30  
-----

3. (SBU) Though SPLA and SAF units withdrew from the center of Malakal, other armed elements continued to loot houses and threaten civilians in residential and commercial areas of the town. A UN security official based in Juba called the looters "opportunistic" local militia. Another UN official, speaking from Malakal, says some SAF soldiers participated in the looting. The CJMC reportedly ordered that no one would be permitted to bear weapons in Malakal, and that no more than five persons could gather at any one place. Despite these orders, there were several reports of looting in Malakal on November 30, including specific accounts of the targeting of males believed to be supporters of the SPLA, beatings and shootings of women and children, firing into the air, and threats against persons who objected to the looting. A group of approximately 100 SAF soldiers reportedly attempted to return to the SAF barracks, but was interdicted by the SPLA. UNMIS officers intervened, and UNMIS troops escorted the SAF forces back to their barracks.

-----  
Deaths, Woundings Estimated in the Hundreds  
-----

4. (U) Tallying the number of dead and injured in Malakal remained

impossible as of December 1 due to insecurity. Some of the estimated 300-400 civilians injured, according to humanitarian workers, were still unable to reach medical assistance because of ongoing instability. One senior UN official, who requested anonymity, estimated the total civilian and military death toll at 1250.

15. (SBU) UN sources confirmed that SAF had requested assistance in burying casualties formally on November 30. According to the same sources, the SAF lost a total of 30-35 soldiers, including 4 senior officers. A senior SPLA official told Consulate General Juba officers on November 30 the SPLA had yet to determine its losses. However, reports from humanitarian workers in Malakal suggested the SPLA had lost at least 11 soldiers. On the night of November 30, the ICRC transported eight SPLA bodies to the SPLA barracks south of Malakal. Another three SPLA bodies reportedly remained at the SAF barracks.

16. (SBU) A senior SPLA official advised Consulate General Juba officers that 57 wounded SPLA soldiers had been evacuated to Yei in Western Equatoria. Another 91 SPLA casualties, according to UN sources, were evacuated to Khorflus.

-----  
UN Announces Assistance Efforts Underway  
-----

17. (U) On November 30, the UN Office of the Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Khartoum announced that the UN had begun delivering medical assistance to the estimated 300-400 civilians injured during the two days of violence in Malakal. The UN is working to provide food, water, and shelter materials to those who fled to escape the fighting. Humanitarian teams are assessing civilian casualties, infrastructure damage, and the availability of

KHARTOUM 00002772 002 OF 002

food, water, and medical supplies for ongoing assistance.

18. (U) The Malakal Teaching Hospital sent out an urgent request on November 30 for assistance, including nursing support; ambulances, fuel, and ambulance spare parts; blankets and mattresses; and medications. Some of the requested material was delivered via a UN support flight on December 1.

HUME